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R. Swain Gifford has on his easel two pictures, "The Light Ship," and "Cliffs, Bay of Fundy," which are marked improvements on any of the gentleman's former efforts. In the "Light Ship" we have some excellently painted sky and water, while in the "Cliffs" there is a boldness of design which is remarkably effective. Another good picture is a view near Cape Cod; a lonely, desolate moor, unbroken by any object save a small log house which is seen in the distance, bathed in the solemn darkness of a twilight sky; nothing disturbs the grandeur of the scene, where Nature, silent and lonely, reigns supreme. This is a good case in point of the statements advanced some few paragraphs back—here we have a sentimental picture, a picture where the artist evidently painted under the inspiration of the moment—and what is the consequence? You are fully impressed with the grandeur of the subject, and come away with the work of the artist firmly stamped upon your mind.

A. C. Howland has just finished a pleasing picture of the Connecticut Valley, fresh sunny and atmospheric.

J. G. Brown, too, has just completed another of his exquisite little *genre* pictures, which he calls "The Peacemaker." A bright faced little girl is separating two belligerent urchins and administering to them a sound lecture on the wickedness of their ways. The picture is beautifully painted and tells its simple story admirably.

Pickett has just finished, in the clay, the portrait bust of a child, which fairly breathes with merriment and childish innocence.

Happening to go into the new building of the "Harmony Club," in 42d Street, I found there a most beautiful specimen of fresco painting by Angero, representing the meeting of Apollo and Diana, which for beauty of design and execution has never been surpassed, in this branch of art, in the country. In Europe fresco painting is immensely popular among artists; many of the public buildings being thus decorated by the greatest painters, but here, in the New World, it would appear to be one of the lost or rather undiscovered arts; save among house decorators, it has been used but little, if at all. This is undoubtedly a great mistake—to figure painters in particular it affords great scope for largeness of design and breadth of treatment of which it would be well for them to avail themselves. Mr. Angero has amply displayed this in his "Apollo and Diana," here we have the subject treated with a truly classical and artistic feeling, while the color is rich, strong and luminous, never exaggerated but always effective.

PALETTE.

MME. DE LA GRANGE.—A farewell visit is rumored from this lyric artist to America, but no time is named when she will commence her professional labors or in what place her *rentree* will be made. We hear of this accomplished prima donna singing in Milan with all her accustomed brilliancy and truly artistic spirit.

MADAME COLSON.—This very popular lyric artist is said to have retired from the lyric stage, with ample means to enjoy life and repose from years of exertion as prima donna.

MUSIC IN CINCINNATI.

Those excellent Professors, Charles Kunkel and Henry Hahn, have commenced their third annual series of Concerts de Salon, with very flattering prospects of success. In these excellent and classic extertainments they have the assistance of Messrs. J. M. Strobel, L. Schwebel, M. Brand, and J. Kunkel. The programmes of the two first concerts, which we append, are very interesting, as they indicate a high state of cultivation of musical taste in refined society in Cincinnati.

Programme of First Concert de Salon.—Sonate, D major (two pianos), Mozart, Charles and Jacob Kunkel; Intermezzi, Op. 4; Book 2, Schumann, Charles Kunkel; Sonate; A major (piano and violin), Op. 6. Gade, Charles Kunkel and Henry Hahn; Rapsodie Hongroise, No. 10, Liszt, Charles Kunkel; Rondo (two pianos), Op. 76. Posthume, Chopin, Charles and Jacob Kunkel; Quintet, E flat, Op. 44, Schumann, (piano, two violins, viola, and violoncello), Charles Kunkel, Hahn, Strobel, Schwebel, and Brand.

Programme of Second Concert de Salon.—Sonate, C major, Op. 14 (four hands), Mozart, Charles and Jacob Kunkel; 7th Concerto, Op. 76 (two movements), De Beriot, Henry Hahn; Grand Polonaise, Op. 22, Chopin, Jacob Kunkel; Sonate, Op. 5, No. 1, F major (piano and violoncello), Beethoven, Charles Kunkel and Michael Brand; (a) Berceuse, Op. 57, (b) Polonaise, No. 1, C sharp minor, Op. 26, Chopin, Charles Kunkel; Quartet, E flat major, Op. 16, Beethoven (piano, violin, viola, and violoncello), Charles Kunkel, Hahn, Schwebel, and Brand.

LATEST PARIS GOSSIP.

The French Post Office receives daily 1000 letters whose address is illegible; two clerks are constantly employed in deciphering these charades; about 2,300,000 letters annually defy all guessers.

An inventor named Becker has introduced a new champagne cork, which has none of the inconveniences of the present cork, with its noisy "pop," disagreeable wax, inconvenient wires and tin foil. "Tis said the wine makers like it.

A German iron master will send to the Paris Exhibition a house made entirely of iron, and engages to make as many others like it in ten days, for \$5000. It can be taken to pieces, and is easily heated, for the walls are hollow, and may be connected with a furnace or a hot water chamber.

The Cathedral Notre Dame is nearly rid of the masons, etc., who have been repairing it these last twenty years, and for the first time since 1846 it may be seen in its full beauty, unveiled by scaffolds. Along the southern side of the Cathedral is still to be seen the Latin inscription cut in the stones, indicating the date of its construction, and the builder's (Jehan de Chelles's) name.

M. Galoppe d'Onquaire, a literary man of some promise, twenty-five years of age, is dead.

The school boys of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiew and Kazan, have sent letters of thanks to M. de Bismarck for simplifying the study of German geography, which was formerly most difficult.

Mons. Dano, the French Minister to Mexico, is engaged to marry Mlle Bestegui, an heiress with \$2,000,000 dowry.

Count de Vaulchier, one of the most zealous sportsmen of France, has married Mlle de Raincourt, one of the oldest families of La Franche Comté.

The Count de Buserrolles died a few days since filling the post of hog reeve of a French village; another Buserrolles, grandson of a major in the Army of Condé, is a carpenter in Paris; Count Louis de Montmorency is a clerk in a Government office at Vienna; the grand son of a French marshal, cordon bleu, duke and peer of France, is an inn-keeper in a French village—his wife is a peasant's daughter; a Spanish Baron is the porter of a house in Paris. Coachman and master, said Johnson, change place once every fifty years.

"Father, what is a political secret society?" "My daughter, it is a society formed of men, who meet as secretly as possible to bawl their secrets as loud as they can into each other's ears."

Mons. Noel des Vergers, the author of *Etruria* and the *Etruscans*, is dead.

Ten years ago the Bœuf Gras of Paris fetched \$2,000—the price is now some \$6000 or \$7000.

The friends of Mons. Bellange, the painter, who died a few months since, are organizing an exhibition of all his works.

Mons. Paul Dubois, a promising young sculptor, is hard at work on the monument to Gen. de Lamoriciere, which is to be erected in the cathedral of Nantes.

There is one house in Paris where sixty newspapers are printed.

In the days of Louis XIV. it was the fashion for gentlemen to wear muffs to keep their hands warm while hunting. The King, however, never wore one even in the coldest winter. Two peasants met him while hunting; one expressed his astonishment that the king should not guard his hands against the cold. The other replied: "His hands cold? There is no danger of that—ain't they always in our pockets."

A man has proposed to the municipal authorities of Paris to remove the trees which now line the streets of that city, and supply their places with painted tin trees.

The name of the Dutch Minister of Finances is Count Schimmelpennink van der Oye.

M. Daudet, a literary man, has married Mlle. Allard, an heiress. The Viscount de Villele (grand son of the Minister,) has married Mlle. de Mouleon. The Marquis de Turgot (son of the late Ambassador), has married Mlle. de Montaignac.

The French Emperor and Empress are living much more like private people of rank than monarchs. It was thought something wonderful in the days of Louis Philippe that he should walk two or three times on the Boulevard. Napoleon III. and the Empress have walked to the exhibition, walked about the Luxembourg, walked to the Hotel Cauboury in the Rue de la Paix, as if they were plain Mr. and Mrs. Bonaparte. They go to the theatres two or three times a week. He has evidently a hold on the French no monarch has had since his uncle. The usual State banquets have commenced at the Tuileries. Every Monday 40 or 42 persons, chiefly field officers of the army. Every other Wednesday there is a ball. Every Sunday there is a private dinner party to which six guests are invited.

In consequence of his duel with M. Rochefort, M. Paul de Cassagnac has been obliged to resign his clerkship in the Ministry of the Interior.